Interest of Indian settlers in Fiji

1977. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up with the Fiji, after its new Government formation, regarding safeguard of Indian settlers there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also their response thereto; and

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to take up this issue now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) External Affairs Minister met Prime Minister of Fiji, Laisenia Qarase in March' 2002 on the margins of the Commonwealth Summit in Coolum, Australia. He reiterated our position to the Fijian Prime Minister that Indians in Fiji are Fijians, and should be treated as equal citizens. All Fijians must enjoy equal economic, social and political rights. The Fijian Prime Minister was also urged to safeguard the Constitution in a manner that is truly representative of all sections of the Fijian population.

(c) We will continue to interact with the Government of Fiji to highlight our concerns regarding the interests of Fijians of Indian origin.

Russian suggestion to Pakistan to stop intrusion in India

1978. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Russia had told Pakistan to take concrete action to stop intrusion of terrorists in India and stop their terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): The Joint Statement signed and issued on 3 February, 2002 during the visit to India by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Igor Ivanov mentioned that during the discussion on South Asia, the Russian side reiterated its strong condemnation of continued acts of

cross-border terrorism against India, including the terrorist attack on Indian Parliament on 13 December, 2001. Russia expressed its understanding and support regarding India's justified demands that these activities from Pakistan and territory controlled by it cease completely. Both India and Russia emphasized the need for Pakistan to cooperate in stopping infiltration of terrorists into India, across the international boundary and the Line of Control, and ending the continued terrorist violence in the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir, as also in other parts of India. The sides noted that sustained and irreversible steps in this direction would create a conducive environment for the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Extraditon treaty with Iran

†1979. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to sign an extradition treaty with Iran;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An Indian draft of the proposed extradition treaty was sent to the Iranian Government in January, 2002. The matter is at a preliminary stage.

(d) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.